

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph in the specification on page 11 lines 19-28, with following paragraph:

-- The extension locus is known in other breeds of domestic animals, such as the horse, where *e* is associated with chestnut colour (Adalsteinsson *et al.*, *J. Hered.* 65:15-20 (1974)), cattle (Klungland *et al.*, *Mammalian Genome* 6: 636-639 (1995)), the fox (Adalsteinsson, *J. Hered.* 78: 15-20 (1987)) and the mouse (Jackson, *Ann Rev Genet.* 28: 189-217 (1994)). The extension locus encodes the alpha melanocyte-stimulating hormone receptor ( $\alpha$ MSHR). It has been shown that recessive alleles at this locus do not express a functional  $\alpha$ MSH receptor (Robbins *et al.*, *Cell*, 72: 827-834 (1993), Klungland *et al.*, *Mammalian Genome* 6: 636-639 (1995)) and these workers have identified mutations in the sequence of the  $\alpha$ MSHR gene in these species associated with different coat colours.--